A MAN inspects a beehive at a honey farm in Samarbagh area of Peshawar. — White Star

Peshawar faces civic crisis due to heavy influx of people from restive areas: CM

Afridi inaugurates beautification project

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi said here on Sunday that military operations in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caused migration and a large number of people shifted to Peshawar, creating civic problems in the city.

He said that people from tribal districts and Malakand division migrated to Peshawar and overcrowded the provincial capital.

He said that development of Peshawar was must. He added that the provincial capital was being focused upon.

The chief minister, during his address after launching Peshawar's beautification project, said that the main objective of launching the scheme was to restore the past glory of the provincial capital, according to an official statement.

He said that most of the visitors to provincial capital were outsiders and it was their collective responsibility to improve the city.

He added that all laws and policies introduced in the province would focus solely on public welfare and greater public interest instead of giving immunity to someone. "Anyone, who does anything wrong, will be held accountable," he added.

The statement read that under the initiative, rehabilitation of roads, installation of street lights, measures for smooth flow of traffic, installation of sculptures, development of green areas and other beautification measures would be carried out in the provincial capital.

The chief minister said that some ill-informed people questioned the one per cent share received by KP under NFC Award for war against terrorism, but they ignored the fact that the province made the greatest sacrifices in that war. He added that other provinces received more funds under various heads but KP continued to face financial discrimination.

He said that payment of Rs2,200 billion under the head of net hydel profit was pending with federal government. He said that federal government had pledged Rs100 billion annually for merged districts, but the amount was not released and Rs550 billion, owed to merged districts remain unpaid.

"The administrative merger of former Federally Administered Tribal Areas has taken place, but its financial merger has not yet," said Mr Afridi, adding that an overall, Rs3,000 billion was outstanding against federal government.

He said that KP's rightful share in NFC Award stood at 19.4 per cent after merger of tribal districts, but the province was given only 14.6 per cent. "We demand our full rights. The federal government is treating KP like a stepchild," he remarked.

Referring to the newly-launched project, the chief minister said that Peshawar, as a provincial capital, was a collective responsibility. "We will continue to bring forward more projects to improve its development and aesthetics, this city is our face," he added.

He said that a comprehensive master plan for Peshawar would soon be prepared in consultation with public representatives.

Earlier, officials briefed the chief minister that the beautification project included rehabilitation of Peshawar Ring Road, Jamrud Road, and GT Road.

The provincial minister for local government and rural development, Meena Khan Afridi, said that local government department and Peshawar's Development Authority (PDA) had done a detailed work and hoped that a presentation on the plan would be shared next week.

"Peshawar is much better as compared to the Peshawar before 2013," he said. He said that the missing link of Peshawar Ring Road would be inaugurated in January, 2026. He said that the provincial capital would be transformed through joint efforts and hoped that there would be visible changes in the provincial capital by June 2026.

The event was also attended by elected representatives from Peshawar, former MPAs and senior officials of local government department.

Five Afghans with fake IDs arrested

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency has arrested five Afghan nationals in Peshawar for attempting to obtain Saudi Arabian visas using fake Pakistani identity documents.

According to an FIA spokesperson on Sunday, the Anti-Smuggling Circle conducted a raid at a private hotel in the Dabgari area, where the suspects were taken into custody.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Ali Khan, Ajmal, Qasim, Ahmad, and Hamza.

Initial investigations revealed that the suspects had illegally entered Pakistan through unofficial routes.

They allegedly acquired forged Pakistani identity cards and passports with the help of local facilitators.

FIA officials recovered Afghan identity documents as well as the counterfeit Pakistani CNICs from their possession.

The FIA spokesperson stated that the Afghan nationals intended to use the fraudulent Pakistani documents to secure Saudi work visas.

A case has been registered against the suspects and further investigation is underway. — APP

Lakki Marwat admin begins canine vaccination

LAKKI MARWAT: The district administration on Sunday launched a canine vaccination campaign across the district to immunise pets and stray dogs against rabies.

"The campaign was launched on the special instructions of deputy commissioner Hamidullah Khan under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Good Governance Framework," an official told *Dawn*.

He said that the veterinary experts along with municipal workers inoculated dogs at various places in all tehsils of the district.

"Several stray dogs were taken to the quarantine centres where they were vaccinated against rabies," he said.

The official said that vaccination was helpful for both animals and humans to maintain their health.

He said that vaccination also aimed to prevent the spread of rabies and other diseases transmitted to humans from animals.

"Special teams comprising experts from the livestock department and municipal employees have been deployed across the district to ensure coverage of all canines," he said. — Correspondent

Kohat's prominent families end blood feud

KOHAT: Two prominent families of Kohat reconciled a blood feud following a jirga held at the hujra of former federal minister GG Jamal in Islamabad.

The families of former provincial minister Amjid Afridi and the slain former district nazim Malik Asad pardoned each other and pledged to live with peace in the future.

The governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Kareem Kundi, guaranteed the agreement for which efforts were afoot since April 2025 after the murder of Malik Asad.

Former district police officer Dr Zahidullah had told a press conference here that they had arrested an accused from Islamabad airport and was brought to Kohat, who had confessed to the killing after which six more arrests were made.

The detainees had said that Amjid Afridi had given them Rs five million to eliminate Asad. Consequently, Amjid Afridi was arrested and sent to jail on remand. However, he had obtained a bail from a court.

Both Malik Amjid Afridi and son of Malik Asad, Malik Ahmed, announced an end to their enmity in the presence of Governor Faisal Kareem Kundi and former minister GG Jamal.

Hundreds of social, business and political figures were present on the occasion from across the country.

Both Amjid and Ahmed embraced each other and assured that the murder case would be withdrawn. — Correspondent

Derajat Museum inaugurated

— Dawn

By Our Correspondent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Former chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur inaugurated the Derajat Museum at a ceremony here on Sunday to preserve the treasure trove of regional history and culture.

The event was attended by dignitaries, officials, and citizens, including MNA Sardar Faisal Amin Gandapur, Dr Abdul Samad, joint secretary archaeology department, the deputy commissioner and the district police officer.

In his address, Ali Amin Gandapur emphasised the importance of preserving the region's history and culture, stating that the museum would play a significant role in acquainting the younger generation with their heritage.

On the occasion, Dr Samad highlighted the museum's collection, which showcases the culture, artifacts, and traditional handicrafts of Dera, Tank, and surrounding tribes.

The participants hailed the museum's establishment as a vital step in preserving the region's cultural identity and commended the efforts of the authorities involved.

Dera division commissioner Zafar Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The event concluded with the presentation of souvenirs to notable guests.

10 centres across KP to help in early diagnosis of diabetes

By Ashfaq Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: In view of the soaring cases of diabetes, Khyber Medical University Hospital has decided to establish 10 diabetes care centres for managing high blood sugar level and ensuring early diagnosis while Sugar General Hospital has launched fund collection campaign to expand the health facility and cope with the needs of patients.

Prof Sobia Sabir Ali, a senior endocrinologist, told *Dawn* that they were establishing centres in different cities with their linkages with KMU Hospital to ensure that people got timely diagnosis and also motivate others to focus on exercises and balanced diet to stay safe from the ailment that affected 537 million people globally.

Given the alarming speed with which people are falling to the disease, the number of diabetic patients would swell to 643 million by 2030 and 783 million by 2045, she said.

"In Pakistan, 34.5 million adults (33 per cent of the adult population) are currently living with diabetes. It is being indicated that the figure will touch 62 million by 2045 but we can prevent the disease through interventions at grassroots level," said Prof Sobia.

According to her, a Diabetes Society has been formed at KMU to scale up public awareness regarding causative agents of the disease and mobilise at-risk population to undergo regular checkups and avoid complications.

Citing recent statistics of World Health Organisation, she said that diabetes affected 34.5 million people in Pakistan, including one in three adults.

Pakistan has the highest diabetes burden globally, therefore, it is important to prevent the disease from snowballing into major public health issue.

Prof Ziaul Haq, the vice-chancellor of KMU, said that diabetes affected every fourth person in the country owing to lack of exercise and imbalanced diet coupled with reluctance of people to opt for medical checks and adopt health lifestyle.

"We have done extensive research on diabetes and other diseases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It shows that the disease is rising," he said.

Pakistan is now the world's third most affected country after China and India and International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimates that 34.5 million adults aged 20 to 79 in Pakistan are currently living with the sickness.

"We are mobilising students to support our community-based efforts to reduce the burden," said Prof Zia.

The medical director of KMU Hospital, Prof Wazir Mohammad Khan, said that they got full-fledged facilities to diagnose diabetes promptly and ensure its management.

Women entitled to retain original domicile after marriage, declares PHC

Bench sets aside FCPS-II policy of automatic assumption of husband's domicile for female candidates

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court has declared that a married woman is entitled to retain her original domicile after marriage unless she voluntarily chooses to adopt that of her husband.

A bench consisting of Justice Sadiq Ali and Justice Syed Mudasser Ameer struck down paragraph 4 (a) of 'induction policy for FCPS-II training and second fellowship' and declared it unconstitutional to the extent that it mandated automatic assumption of the husband's domicile upon marriage of a female candidate.

The bench gave the significant findings while accepting a petition filed by a female candidate of FCPS-II, Dr Laiba Khan, whose application for fellowship training at Postgraduate Medical Institute was rejected under the impugned policy clause, which provided that upon marriage, a female candidate should assume the domicile of her husband and that her own domicile should thereafter not be considered valid.

Petitioner's counsel Azeemullah Khan Tahirkheli contended that the said rule deprived his client of the opportunity to pursue higher medical education and violated her fundamental rights.

He stated that the petitioner had chosen to retain her Abbottabad domicile and continued to reside there and her husband, a native of Punjab, had himself applied for domicile in Abbottabad, showing their mutual intent to reside permanently in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The bench directed respondents including federal government and PGMI to amend the policy accordingly and to permit the petitioner to resume her FCPS-II fellowship training from the point where she left off.

In its 12-page detailed judgement authored by Justice Syed Mudasser, the bench has discussed in details different provisions of the Constitutions as well as relevant laws and rules.

The impugned paragraph 4 (a) of the policy states: "Female candidates upon marriage shall assume domicile of her husband meaning after marriage domicile of husband will be considered as domicile of the female candidate (post marriage her own domicile will not be considered as valid)."

The bench ruled: "A woman cannot be denied the right to retain her pre-marriage domicile as that would infringe upon her fundamental right to freedom of movement and choice of residence protected under Article 15 of the Constitution."

Referring to different constitutional guarantees related to right to life, education and to reside and settle in any part of Pakistan etc the bench ruled: "The impugned clause violates each of these guarantees. It discriminates against married women, denies them equal educational opportunity, and restricts their freedom to reside and serve in their province of choice. It enforces a presumption that a woman's individuality dissolves upon marriage; a notion alien to the Constitution."

"The impugned provision leaves no room for choice. It compels a married woman to abandon her own domicile and assume that of her husband; whether she wishes it or not. It presumes that marriage erases individuality. The law does not. The Constitution certainly does not," the bench maintained.

"A woman's domicile is not a transferable chattel, nor does it change hands upon marriage. It reflects residence, intention, and choice; all attributes of personhood. To impose an 'alien domicile' upon her merely because she married is to deny her individuality. This, the Constitution forbids," it added.

Furthermore, the bench declared: "A female candidate may marry yet wish to continue her education and career in her native province, where she has lived, studied and intends to reside permanently. If her husband, too, chooses to make that province their home, the state has no business to displace that joint decision."

"Domicile is a question of intention and residence, not gender or marital status. By extinguishing her choice, the policy does not promote administrative order; it enforces gender subordination. It replaces merit with marital dependency. The Constitution knows no such hierarchy," the bench observed.

The bench said that section 9 of Succession Act, 1925, provided that the domicile of origin prevailed until a new domicile was acquired.

"It is settled law that matters of policy ordinarily fall within the domain of the executive, the courts will intervene where such policy is tainted with illegality, arbitrariness, or constitutional infirmity," the bench observed.

"A policy can be struck down if it is ultra vires the parent statute, inconsistent with constitutional provisions, discriminatory, irrational, or founded on extraneous considerations. Likewise, if it violates fundamental rights, offends the principle of equality under Article 25, defeats legitimate expectation, or constitutes a colourable exercise of power, it cannot stand judicial scrutiny," the bench maintained.